

Indebtedness Among Farmers

2036. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have got any estimate of the magnitude of indebtedness prevailing among farmers in the country with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government propose to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from NABARD, the proportion of household reporting debt and average amount per household in respect of Andhra Pradesh and in the country as on 30th June, 1991 is as under:

Rural Debt outstanding

Proportion of household reporting debt (Percentage)	Average amount of debt (Rs.)	
Andhra Pradesh	42.1	2731
All India	32.0	2116

(c) For ensuring the flow of timely and adequate credit to the farms in the country including Andhra Pradesh and tackling the problems in receiving credit, a number of steps have been taken as indicated below:

- Most of the recommendations of High Level Committee (R.V. Gupta Committee) on agricultural credit which include simplification of procedures, greater flexibility and discretion to banks in the matter of collateral/margin security, dispensing with "No Dues Certificate", ease disbursement of loans, introduction of new loan products with savings component etc. have been implemented.
- Extension of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit needs of farmers.
- Introduction of Kisan Credit Cards aimed at Providing

timely and adequate credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs.

- Liberalisation of guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security, norms for minimum recovery and minimum involvement etc.
- Banks have been advised by the RBI to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high tech agricultural project.

Cargo Shipment of Agricultural Products

2037. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for agricultural products cargo shipment airport in the State of Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which is an organisation under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, proposes to set up a cold storage and cargo handling facility at Mumbai International Airport in Maharashtra for export cargo of perishable agro products such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, meat and poultry. APEDA has no plans to set up such a facility in Punjab or Haryana as perishable products are exported in very small quantities from these places for which the facility set up at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport is available.